

# REVIEWS

## RHEUMATISM

It is natural that a disease of the social and economic importance of rheumatism should occupy a considerable place in medical literature. Nevertheless, until the last few years, little of importance has been added to our knowledge of this crippling group of diseases. Significant advances in treatment, a closer study of the composition of synovial fluid and of the factors which influence the permeability of synovial membranes, offer at last a measure of hope to many sufferers. It is therefore with particular pleasure we welcome Dr. Ernest Fletcher's new book—"Medical Disorders of the Locomotor System."

It is to be hoped that the rather cumbersome title will not deter the general physician and the general practitioner from reading this admirable book. Except for interesting chapters on sciatica and brachial neuralgia it is not concerned with neurology, and the cerebro-spinal system is left severely alone. It is one of the most readable works in medical literature and is indeed a credit to British medicine.

The author wisely decided not to tie himself to any rigid classification and takes as a general definition of rheumatic disorders: "painful locomotor disorders of unknown ætiology." The clinical examination of the rheumatic patient is given in great detail and is illustrated with many photographs.

The section on rheumatoid arthritis is of outstanding importance and never has there been such a complete study of the treatment of this disease. Dr. Fletcher is perfectly frank in stating that his experience of a particular method is limited or that he has not succeeded in alleviating symptoms by another. Treatment by injections into joints is described in detail, including the recent work by Waugh on Lactic Acid injections.

Contributions on special subjects are by well-known authorities. For example, there is an excellent chapter on Fibrositis by W. S. C. Copeman, and Medical Diseases of Bone are in the capable hands of Donald Hunter.

The illustrations, paper, and binding show little signs of the age of austerity in which we live and we welcome a work of great medical value. T. A. K.

**MEDICAL DISORDERS OF THE LOCOMOTOR SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE RHEUMATIC DISEASES.** By Ernest Fletcher, M.A., M.D.(Cantab.), M.R.C.P. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 45s.

**ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF CLINICAL STUDY TO THE PHYSIOLOGY OF THE CEREBRAL MOTOR CORTEX:** The Victor Horsley Memorial Lecture, 1946. By F. M. R. Walshe, O.B.E., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Pp. 29. 1s. 6d.

IN this memorial lecture Dr. Walshe pays eloquent tribute to his old friend and teacher, whose "name and fame are part of the imperishable tradition of medicine." He reviews in that clear and challenging manner which is all his own, the evidence which has accumulated to discard the